

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed on October 17, 2011, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0120902 to Adams ("Adams") in view of Langmuir 2002, 18, 7029-7034, provided as NPL by Applicant, ("Cherniavskaya") and in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0047535 to Schueller ("Schueller"). It is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the presented prior art references for at least the following reasons.

The claims are amended for clarity by removing redundant term repetitions and stating that the contacting steps are respectively performed for duration of a first and second contact time. Contact time was previously claimed in claim 6. At page 7, the Final Office Action rejects claim 6 over paragraph 36 of Adams. The referenced paragraph states that contact time is one of a number of parameters that "affect the line widths and SAM structure". However, nothing in Adams or other presented prior art references disclose contacting surfaces of the first and second substrates respectively for first and second contact time duration, as recited in claim 1 or that contact time effects "the transfer

of an increasing fraction of the ink from the edges", as recited in claim 6.

As previously argued, the present application discloses the use of the elastomeric stamp having barrier layer having an affinity to ink that is different from that of a surface of the substrates which it contacts. The present application explains that dewetting leaves "traces of the ink on the contact surfaces of the protruding features of the stamp, which can cause blurring of the features printed on the substrate. In addition, only a few hydrophilic ink solutions exhibit the desired dewetting behaviour on the stamp, which also limits applicability of this technique." Adams requires dewetting; in Schueller the stamp surface is dried; and Cherniavskaya describes a barrier layer that the Examiner admits does not cover the edge. As explained in the specification and recited in the claims, no ink selection is required.

In the Response to Arguments, the Final Office Action states that because the term "comprising is used" the claims do not preclude additional method steps, for example, dewetting and drying as in Adams and Schueller. However, claim 1 recites a first contact: "contacting the contact surface with a surface of a first substrate" and a second contact: "contacting the contact surface with a surface of the second substrate" and makes it clear that the first contact "resulting in a transfer of all of the ink from the contact surface to the surface of the first substrate such that none of the ink remains on the contact surface due to the second affinity for the ink being higher than the first affinity". The contact surface is numbered 16 and 16' in the Figures of the present application. It is respectfully submitted

that the combination of the prior art references does not teach, disclose or suggest this claims recitation. It is respectfully submitted that the discussion in the Final Office Action does not address the above recitation.

Moreover, the discussion in the Final Office Action does not address that while the first contact clears all of the ink from the contact surface, claim 1 recites the second contact "resulting in a transfer of only the ink pattern from the edge to the surface of the second substrate".

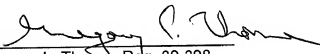
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of the presented prior art reference. For example, Adams in view of Cherniavskaya and Schueller do not teach, disclose or suggest, amongst other patentable elements, (illustrative emphasis added) "contacting the contact surface with a surface of a first substrate for duration of a first contact time, the surface of the first substrate having a second affinity for the ink higher than the first affinity, the contacting resulting in a transfer of all of the ink from the contact surface to the surface of the first substrate such that none of the ink remains on the contact surface due to the second affinity for the ink being higher than the first affinity; and contacting the contact surface with a surface of the second substrate for duration of a second contact time, the surface of the second substrate having a third affinity for the ink higher than the first affinity, the contacting resulting in a transfer of only the ink pattern from the edge to the surface of the second substrate", as recited in claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim is patentable and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. The dependent claims respectively depend from the independent claim and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position, or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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